

Glossary of Terms

Absentee Processing	The administrative handling of mail ballots, including signature checking, assigning voting credit, the opening and inspecting of mail ballots, and the feeding of ballots into the ballot counter. Processing excludes any action that produces election returns or vote tallies.
Abstract of Votes	The official statements of votes cast at an election or primary as prepared by the County Auditor.
ACP	Address Confidentiality Program; program implemented by the Secretary of State. Two election administrators in each county maintain the county program for these voters.
Ballot Accountability Sheet	A form completed by poll workers stating the number of ballots issued (including provisional ballots), spoiled, and the number remaining at the closing of polls.
Ballot Counter	A system or machine used to tally votes from ballots.
Ballot Counter or Tabulator Programming	The programming of software used to tell a ballot counter which marking codes and responses in the voting response area equate to votes cast for a candidate or issue response.
Ballot Counter Log	A log produced by the ballot counter showing the activity of the counter and the operator; used to verify all activity during counting.
Ballot Duplication	The process of transferring votes to a blank ballot from a ballot that cannot be read by the ballot counter. Duplicated ballots need to be marked as to indicate a relationship between the original ballot and the copy of the original. A duplication log must be retained as part of this record.
Ballot marking code	The coded patterns printed on the ballot intended to identify the ballot style to the ballot counting system.
Ballot Path	The process ballots follow from the ballot box until final storage upon certification of the election.
Ballot Tabulator	A system or machine used to tally votes from ballots.
Canvassing Board	The County Auditor, the County Prosecutor, and the Chair of the County Legislative Authority. The Board is responsible for canvassing ballots and certifying elections. Some duties may be delegated.
Canvassing Board Designee	A person designated by the Canvassing Board to carry out one or more of the statutory responsibilities the Canvassing Board is allowed to delegate.
Central Counting System	A system of counting ballots in which all ballots are brought to a central location on election night to be fed through the ballot counter.
Class C Felony	The classification of crime one is guilty of if he/she falsely signs an affidavit of absentee voter or affidavit of voter registration; 5 years in jail, \$10,000 fine, or both such fine and imprisonment.
Counting Center	The location where ballots are processed and counted.
Counting System	See Voting System.
Depot	A place to which poll workers or deputies bring ballot boxes on election night, prior to the ballots' arrival at the counting center.

DAU	Disability Access Unit; any voting device that complies with the American Disability Act and Help America Vote Act and is certified at the state and federal level as a DAU by providing independent voting to persons visually and/or manually challenged.
DRE	Direct Recording Electronic voting device; any voting unit that records a vote electronically and does not use a paper ballot. All direct recording electronic voting devices must have a paper record verifiable by the voter.
Digital Scan System	A voting system that scans the voted paper ballot, but the validity of votes is determined by reviewing the scanned image and voter intent issues are resolved digitally.
Duplication Log	A numerical record of the relationship between original ballots and the duplicate ballots. The log representing the number assigned to a duplicated set.
EAC	Election Assistance Commission; federal commission charged with the responsibility of developing voting system guidelines, providing a national program for testing, certification, and decertification of voting systems; maintaining federal registration information; reporting to Congress the affect of the NVRA; administering HAVA funds at the federal level; and studying best practices and other matters relevant to the effective administration of federal elections.
EIRS	Election Information Reporting System; used by the Washington Secretary of State for tracking candidate/race information, reporting election results and statistics, and to provide online candidate filing.
Election Board	A generic term for any of a number of jobs filled by election workers. Most often, this term applies to workers at the polling place. This term does not refer to election department staff.
Election Observer	A person officially designated by a major political party to observe election procedures.
FPCA	Federal Post Card Application; a postage-free postcard printed and distributed by the FVAP for use by absentee voters covered by UOCAVA.
FVAP	Federal Voting Assistance Program; provides information for US citizens covered by the Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act (UOCAVA). The FVAP website is http://www.fvap.gov .
Gross Misdemeanor	The classification of crime committed when a person divulges the vote count prior to 8:00 PM on election night; 1 year in jail, \$5000 fine or both fine and imprisonment.
HAVA	Help America Vote Act; federal legislation enacted in 2002.
Header Card	A card fed into a ballot counter indicating the beginning of a batch of ballots; used to tell the ballot counter the precinct or batch that is being counted.
L&A Test	Logic and Accuracy Test; an official test to verify that the ballot counter and programming is correctly counting each style of ballot and correctly producing cumulative totals. L&A tests are required prior to each election and are observed and certified by the Secretary of State's Office for each primary and general election.

Manual Count	A process requested jointly by election observers representing each major party requiring manual tally of an office or issue on a single precinct's ballots prior to mechanical tally. The results are then compared to a mechanical tally of the same ballots. This process may be requested three times on election night.
Mail Ballot Processing	The administrative handling of mail ballots, including signature checking, assigning voting credit, the opening and inspecting of ballots, and the feeding of ballots into the ballot counter. Mail ballot processing excludes any action that produces election returns or vote tallies.
NVRA	National Voter Registration Act; federal legislation enacted in 1993. Motor voter registration was created by this act, the act is also known as the "Motor Voter" act.
Optical-Scan System	Mechanical tabulation system using paper ballots and optical scanning of a specific area on the paper ballot. A ballot is scanned by the machine "reading" the (scans) the vote marks in the read response area on the ballot. These marks are then recorded digitally as the vote cast on a race or issue.
Poll site-based Voting System	A vote tallying system located at the polling place in which ballots are fed directly into the ballot box by an optical scan voting system. Precinct specific results are produced by the voting system after 8:00 p.m. on election night. Cumulative results are produced at the Auditor's Office.
Provisional Ballots	Provisional ballots are issued when there is a question as to a voter's eligibility to vote. Provisional ballot could be issued at by an election board a polling place, or by election officials at the Auditor's Office for any reason deemed necessary. Provisional ballots are researched for voter eligibility before they can be counted.
Receiving Board	A group of election workers that receive the ballots at the counting center from the depot, the poll workers, or the deputies on Election Night.
Regional Counting System	A system of counting votes, in which there is more than one counting center in the county, but not a method of tallying votes at each individual precinct or polling place.
Replacement Ballot	A ballot intended to replace the voter's original mail ballot because of the original mail ballot was declared damaged, mismarked or never received. Replacement ballots requests are acceptable over the phone, in person or by mail, but such requests must be documented.
Service Voters	Voters who are members of the armed forces, a US Military Academy, a group officially attached to the armed forces, or an ACP voter. Service voters are mailed their ballots 30 days before each election. Service voters are not held to the postmark requirement. If a service voter's ballot is received before certification of the election and is signed by the election date, the election official must accept the ballot.
Signature Checking	The process of verifying that a signature on a mail ballot envelope matches the signature on the voter's registration file.
Spoiled Ballot	A ballot returned to the poll workers in exchange for a blank ballot because the voter's original ballot was damaged or mismarked.

Tabulation	The process of producing election results or vote tallies. Tabulation may not begin until after 8:00 PM on the day of the election.
Test Deck	The group of ballots used to verify the accuracy of the vote tallying system during the Logic and Accuracy test.
UOCAVA	Uniformed and Overseas Citizens Absentee Voting Act; the act specifically defines voting services to U.S. citizens who reside outside the United States and U.S. citizens who are members of the Uniformed Services and their family members. The term UOCAVA is used to reference these citizens, or any special service provided to these citizens.
Uniformed Services	Uniformed Services are defined as the U.S. Armed Forces (Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard), merchant marine, commissioned corps of the Public Health Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.
Vote-by-Mail County	A county that votes entirely by mail either because all of its precincts are vote-by-mail precincts or because the county has been authorized by RCW 29A.48.010 (1) to vote entirely by mail.
Vote-by-Mail Election	An election in which all qualified voters are mailed a ballot. Ballots may be returned by mail, deposited at the Election Officials' office or at designated drop-off sites.
Vote-by-Mail Precinct	A precinct with less than 200 registered, active voters, excluding permanent absentee voters that the county election official designates to receive ballots through the mail. No polling places exist for these precincts. Ballots may be returned by mail or deposited at the election official's office.
Voting Response Area	The area on an optical scan ballot, as specified in the instructions to the voter in which the voter may place a mark indicating a vote.
Voting System	Total combination in a county of all tabulation equipment including DRE/DAU. This includes all software, firmware and documentation required to program, control, and support the equipment.
WEI	Washington Election Information; state-supported web service for County Auditors and county election departments.